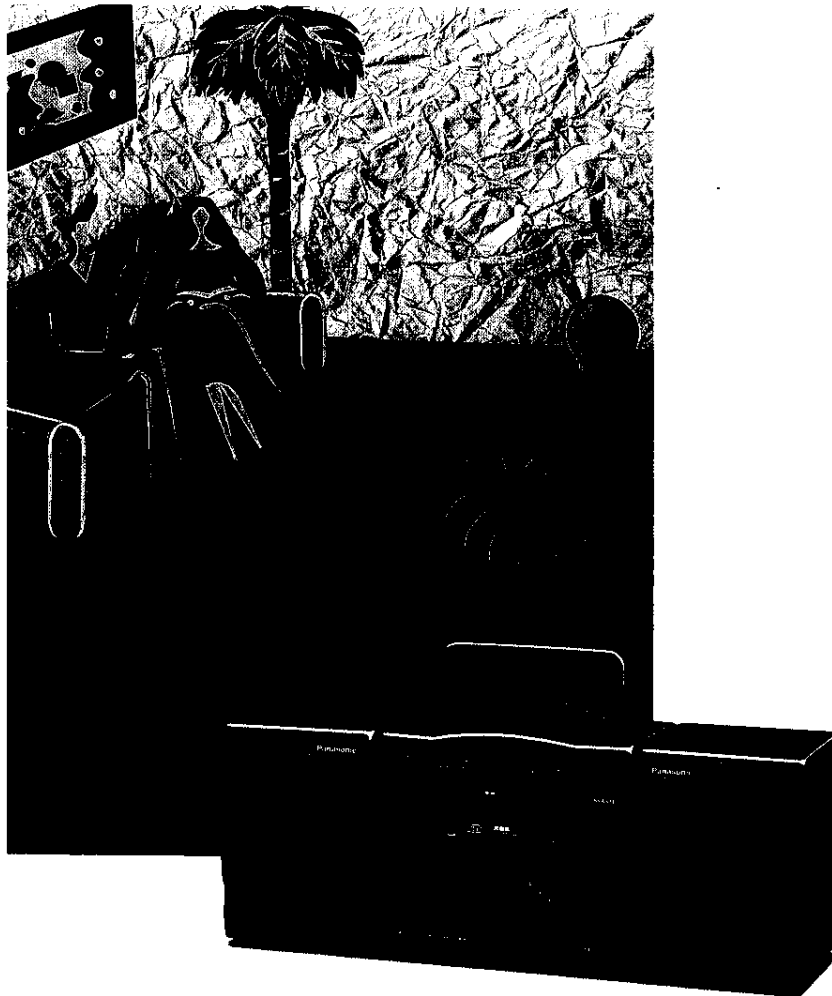


# Panasonic®

## Portable Stereo Component System RX-DS550

### Operating Instructions



Before connecting, operating or adjusting this product, please read these instructions completely.

**COMPACT**  
**disc**  
DIGITAL AUDIO

RQT2852-L

# Dear Customer

Thank you for purchasing this product.  
For optimum performance and safety, please read these operating instructions carefully.

## WARNING:

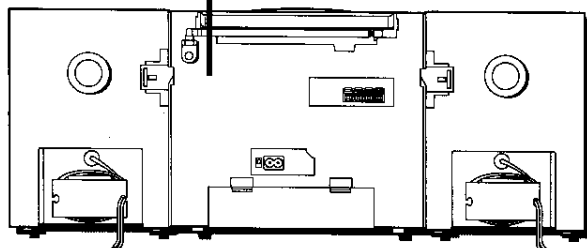
**TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPLIANCE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.**

## CAUTION!

THIS PRODUCT UTILIZES A LASER.  
USE OF CONTROLS OR ADJUSTMENTS OR PERFORMANCE OF PROCEDURES OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN HAZARDOUS RADIATION EXPOSURE.  
DO NOT OPEN COVERS AND DO NOT REPAIR YOURSELF. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

**CLASS 1  
LASER PRODUCT**

(Back of product)



**DANGER-Invisible laser radiation when open and interlock defeated. AVOID DIRECT EXPOSURE TO BEAM.**

(Inside of product)

# Table of Contents

## Before use

Precautions .....	3
Supplied Accessory .....	3
Power Sources .....	4
Connections .....	5
Location of Controls .....	6
Common Operations .....	9

## Listening

Listening to the Radio .....	10
Listening to CDs .....	11
Listening to Tapes .....	14

## Recording

Recording Compact Discs .....	15
Recording Radio Programs .....	16

## General Information

Concerning Compact Discs .....	17
Concerning Cassette Tapes .....	17
Troubleshooting Guide .....	18
Maintenance .....	19
Technical Specifications .....	19

# Troubleshooting Guide

Before requesting service for this unit, check the chart below for a possible cause of the problem you are experiencing. Some simple checks or a minor adjustment on your part may eliminate the problem and restore proper operation.

If you are in doubt about some of the check points, or if the remedies indicated in the chart do not solve the problem, refer to the directory of Authorized Service Centers (enclosed with this unit) to locate a convenient service center, or consult your dealer for instructions.

Problem	Probable cause(s)	Suggested Remedy
---------	-------------------	------------------

## Common problems

No operation when unit is powered by batteries.	Is the AC power cord still connected to the unit while batteries are being used?	Disconnect the AC power cord.
	Are the batteries flat?	Replace them with new ones. Alternatively, use a household AC outlet as the power source.
	Have the batteries been installed incorrectly with their (+) and (-) polarities reversed?	Align the (+) and (-) polarities correctly.

## While listening to CDs

Play does not start. No display of track numbers, etc.	Has the CD been installed upside down?	Install the CD with the label side facing up.
	Has condensation formed on the unit's CD section?	Turn the unit on and leave it on for about an hour before further operation.
Certain sections are not played properly.	Is the CD dirty?	Wipe it with a soft cloth.
	Is the CD scratched?	Replace it with a new CD.

## While listening to tapes

Tape is not ejected.	Are the batteries flat?	Replace them with new ones or, alternatively, use a household AC outlet as the power source and then perform the operation once again.
No recording.	Have the erase-prevention tabs been removed?	Cover the holes with adhesive tape.
High level of noise; poor sound quality.	Are the heads dirty?	Clean them.
	Have the heads been magnetized?	Demagnetize them using a head eraser available from an audio store.

## While listening to the radio

High level of noise; stations cannot be tuned in well.	Has the antenna been adjusted properly?	Try changing its direction.
Noise heard during AM reception.	Are you operating the unit and a TV set at the same time?	Place the unit at a distance from the TV. Alternatively, turn off the TV's power.
	Are you using a remote controller of other appliances near the unit?	Use the remote controller at a distance.

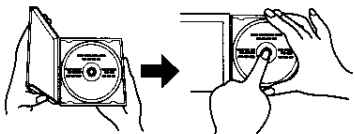
# Concerning Compact Discs

Only compact discs having this mark can be used with this unit.



## To remove a disc from its case

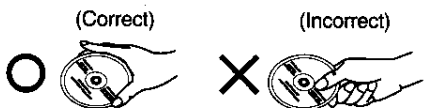
Press the center holder and lift the disc holding by the edges.



## To hold the disc

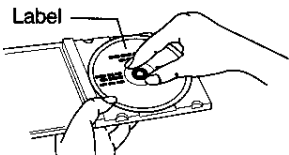
Hold the disc by the edges so the surface is not soiled with fingerprints.

Fingerprints, dirt and scratches can cause skipping and distortion.



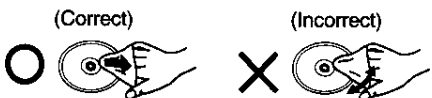
## To store a disc in its case

Insert the disc with label facing upwards and press downward at the center.



## If the surface is soiled

Wipe gently with a soft, damp (water only) cloth.



## If the disc is brought from a cold to a warm environment, moisture may form on the disc

Wipe off this moisture with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth before using the disc.

### Improper disc storage:

You can damage discs if you store them in the following places:

- Areas exposed to direct sunlight.
- Humid or dusty areas.
- Areas directly exposed to a heat outlet or heating appliance.

### Handling precautions:

- Do not write on the label side with a ball-point pen or other writing utensils.
- Do not use record cleaning sprays, benzine, thinner, static electricity prevention liquids or any other solvent.
- Do not soil with fingerprints.

# Concerning Cassette Tapes

## Selection of cassette tapes

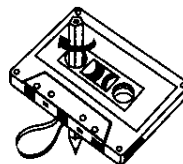
Only normal tapes can be used with this unit.

### Cassette tape exceeding 90 minutes:

These tapes are handy for their long playback and recording time but be careful about repeatedly stopping and starting, rewinding and fast forwarding these tapes in short intervals as they are thin, tend to stretch and may become entangled in the deck mechanism.

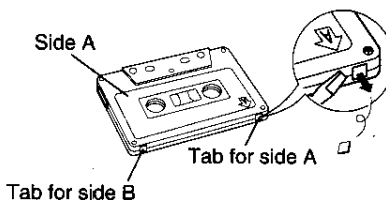
## If the tape loosens, take up the slack

Tape slack may cause the tape to break.

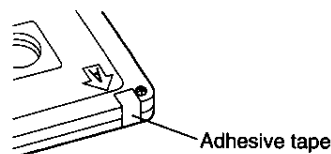


## To prevent erasure of recorded sounds

Remove the erase-prevention tabs with a screwdriver or a similar object.



To re-record on a protected cassette, cover the slot with adhesive tape.

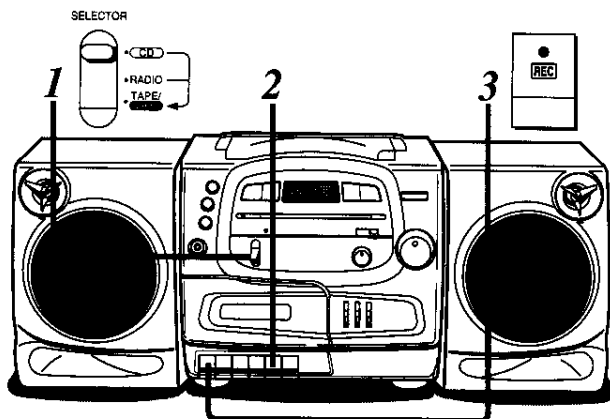


### Improper tape storage:

You can damage tapes if you store them in the following places:

- In high temperature [35°C (95°F) or higher] or high humidity (80% or higher) areas.
- In a strong magnetic field (near a speaker, on top of a TV, etc.) This can erase a recording.
- Areas exposed to direct sunlight.

## Using other methods to record (not easy CD recording)

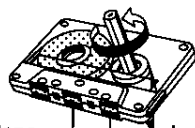


- Tracks on a CD can also be recorded in the following ways.
- CD tracks can be recorded onto the remainder of a recorded tape.
  - Tracks can be recorded from the start of the tape's reverse side.
  - Tracks with a long play time can be recorded in their original sequence.

Preparation: Insert the CD.

- 1** Set **SELECTOR** to "**CD**".
- 2** Press **STOP/EJECT** and load the tape.
  - Load the tape with the side to be recorded facing you.
  - Either have the leader tape wound up in advance or locate the position where recording is to begin. (See below.)
- 3** Press **REC** to start recording on the tape. CD play starts simultaneously.

### To take up the leader tape:



Magnetic part of tape (Recording can be made.)      Leader tape (Recording cannot be made.)

### To erase sound previously recorded on a tape:

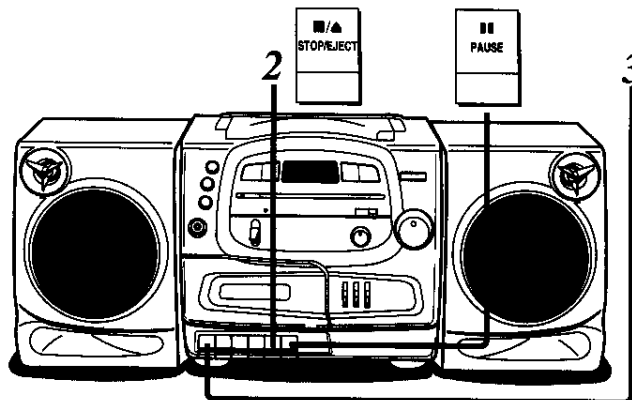
Recording new sound onto a pre-recorded tape automatically erases what was previously recorded.

### To erase all the sound on a tape:

1. Load the tape with the side whose recording is to be erased facing you.
2. Set **SELECTOR** to **TAPE/ OFF**.
3. Press **REC**.

# Recording Radio Programs

Only normal tapes can be used with this unit.



Preparation: Take up the leader tape before proceeding.

- 1** Tune in the broadcast station. (See page 10)
- 2** Press **STOP/EJECT** and load the tape. Load the tape with the side to be recorded facing you.
- 3** Press **REC**.

### To stop the recording:



Press **STOP/EJECT**.

### To stop the recording temporarily:

Press **PAUSE**.

To resume recording, press **PAUSE** again.

### For your reference:

- Any change made to the volume or tone quality during recording will not affect the recording.
- In order to prevent trouble caused by flat batteries, it is recommended that you either supply power to the unit from the household AC outlet or replace all the batteries with new ones when you are recording something which is important to you.



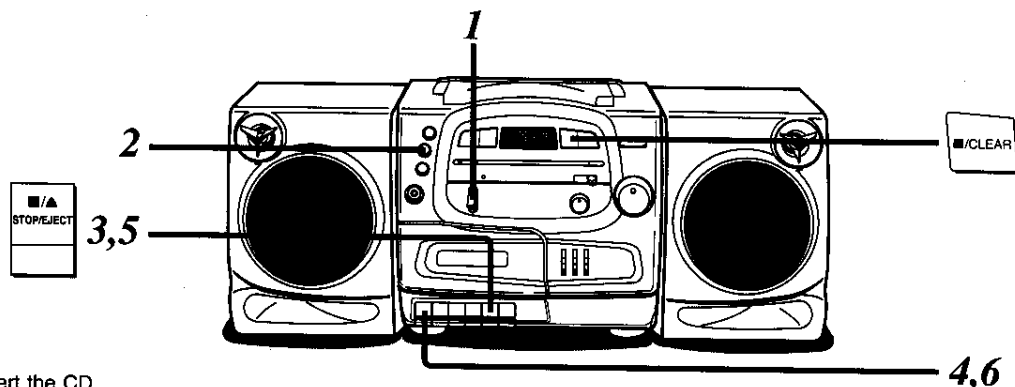
# Recording Compact Discs

Only normal tapes can be used with this unit.

## Easy CD recording

All the tracks are recorded in their original sequence onto a single tape.

If your recording of the last track on the top side is incomplete, this track will be re-recorded at the beginning of the reverse side.



Preparation: Insert the CD.

**1** **SELECTOR**

Set **SELECTOR** to "CD".

**2** **EASY CD RECORD**

Press **EASY CD RECORD** to display the length of tape required.

Length of tape required to record all tracks

Lights

**3**

Press **STOP/EJECT** and load the tape which is longer than the length displayed in step 2.

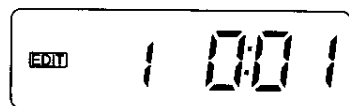
- Rewind the tape completely before recording.
- Load the tape with the side to be recorded facing you.

**4**

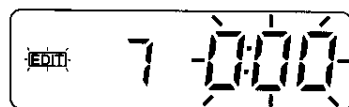
Press **REC**.

The CD is set to the pause mode at the start of the first track.

After a 10-second blank is recorded on the leader tape, recording starts automatically.



The tape stops when the end of top side is reached. The CD is set to the pause mode.



**5**

Press **STOP/EJECT** and turn the tape over.

**6**

Press **REC**.

After a 10-second blank is recorded on the tape, the track which was partially recorded on the end of the tape is recorded from its beginning.

To stop recording:

Press **■/CLEAR** and **STOP/EJECT**.

### Recording your favourite tracks:

After programming your favourite tracks (see page 13), perform steps 2 to 6 above.

Type of tape which can be used for recording:

Normal/TYPE I	○
CrO <sub>2</sub> /TYPE II	×
Metal/TYPE IV	×

### Note

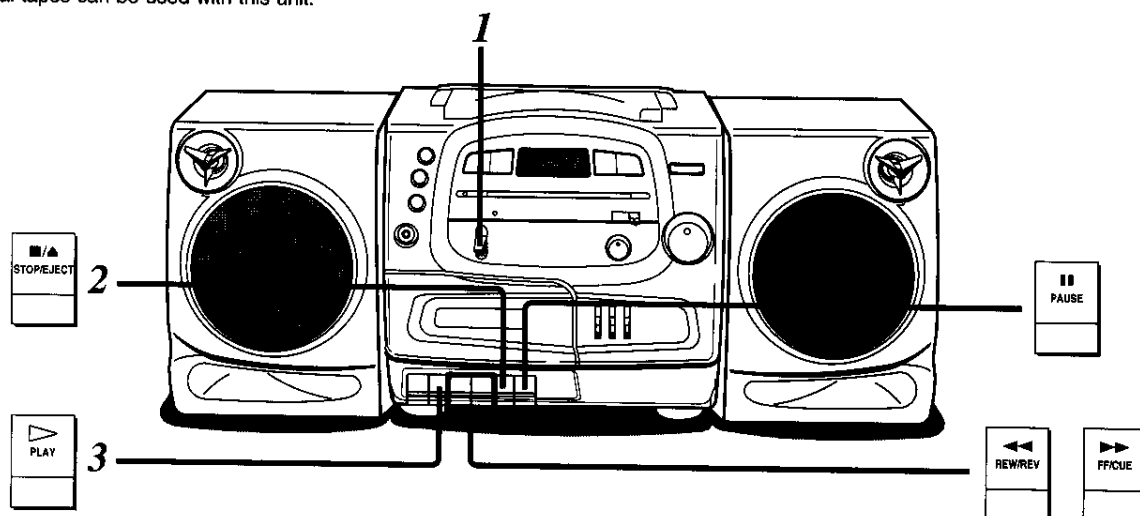
If the unit is brought near a TV set during recording, noise may be recorded due to the effects of the signals from the TV set. Maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters between the unit and a TV set.

### For your reference:

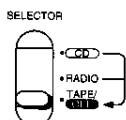
- Any change made to the volume or tone quality during recording will not affect the recording.
- In order to prevent trouble caused by flat batteries, it is recommended that you either supply power to the unit from the household AC outlet or replace all the batteries with new ones when you are recording something which is important to you.

# Listening to Tapes

Only normal tapes can be used with this unit.

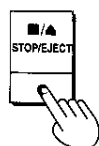


1

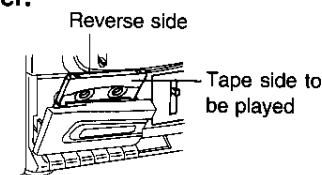


Set **SELECTOR** to "TAPE/**OFF**".

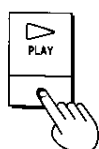
2



Press **STOP/EJECT**, load the tape and close the cassette holder.



3



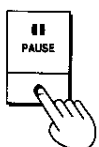
Press **PLAY** to start play.

To stop play:



Press **STOP/EJECT**.

To stop play temporarily:



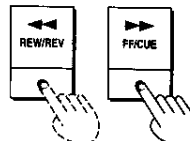
Press **PAUSE**.

To resume play:  
Press **PAUSE** again.

Type of tape which can be played on this unit:

Normal/TYPE I	○
CrO <sub>2</sub> /TYPE II	×
Metal/TYPE IV	×

To rewind or fast forward the tape

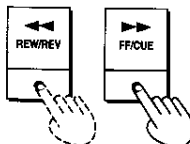


In the stop mode, press **REW/REV** or **FF/CUE**.

## Note

Do not press **PLAY** during rewinding or fast forwarding, as this may jam the tape. Be sure to press **STOP/EJECT** before proceeding to the next operation.

To search a particular spot on a tape



During playback, press **REW/REV** or **FF/CUE**.

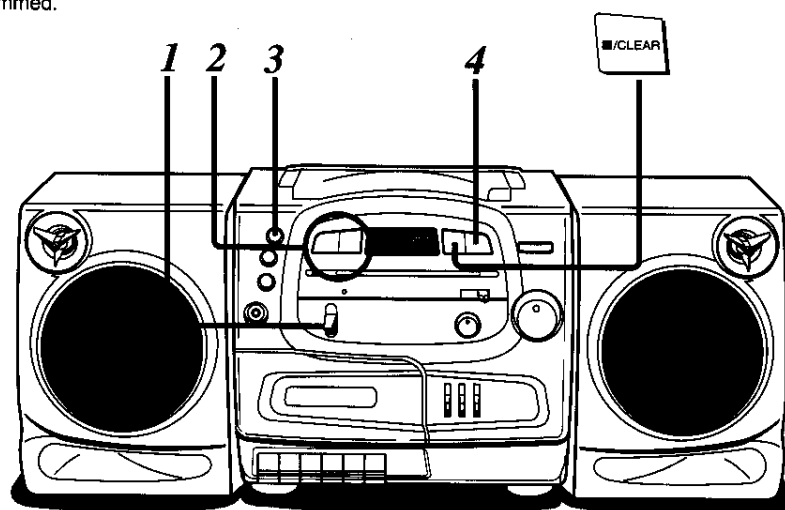
Tape play is resumed when the button is released.

Full auto-stop

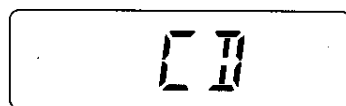
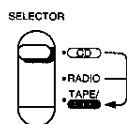
During playback, recording, fast forward or rewind when the tape reaches its end, the automatic stop system will release the operation buttons.

## Selecting and listening to your favourite tracks (Program play)

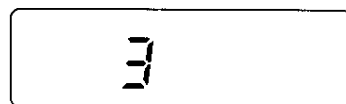
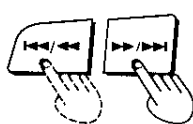
Up to 16 tracks can be programmed.



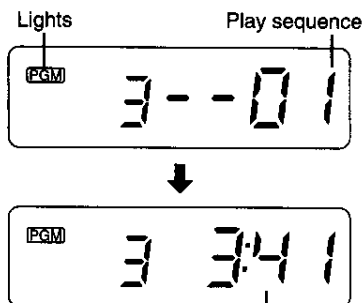
**1** Set **SELECTOR** to "CD".



**2** Press **◀◀/▶▶** or **▶▶/▶▶** to select your favourite track.



**3** Press **MEMORY** to program the track.



To program other tracks as well, repeat steps 2 and 3.

**4** Press **▶/II** to start play.



The tracks are now played in the programmed sequence, after which play will stop automatically.

To release program play:



In the stop mode, press **■/CLEAR**.

**When "---" appears:**

This means that the total play time of the programmed tracks has exceeded 100 minutes. Tracks can still be programmed and played.

**When "FULL" appears:**

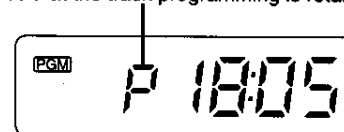
This means that an attempt has been made to program 17 tracks. No more tracks can be programmed.

**For your reference:**

**Memory retention of programmed tracks:**

The programming of the tracks will be retained in the memory even if play is stopped at any time or the unit is turned off.

This indicates that the track programming is retained.



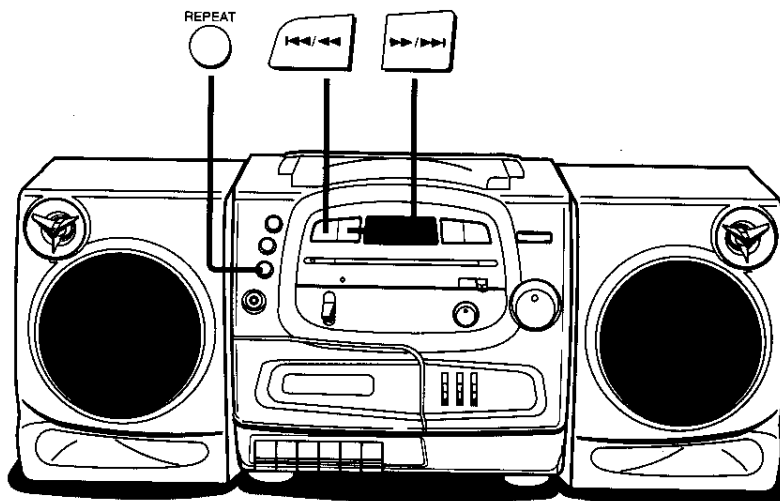
**To check what has been programmed:**

Press **◀◀/▶▶** or **▶▶/▶▶** when "P" is displayed.

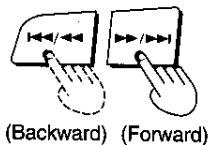
The programmed track numbers and the play sequence will now appear.

The programming is cleared by opening the disc lid.





## *Skipping to the beginning of a track*



(Backward) (Forward)

**In the play mode, press** **or** .

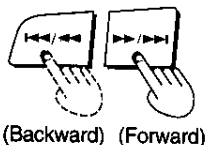
Press the same button repeatedly to skip tracks in the number that corresponds to the number of times you pressed the button.

When either button is operated in the stop mode, only the track number will be indicated.

### **For your reference:**

During program play (see page 13), play skips forward or backward to the tracks in their programmed sequence.

## *Rapid forwarding and reversing (Search)*



(Backward) (Forward)

**During play, keep pressing** **or** .

Release the button at the desired position.

### **For your reference:**

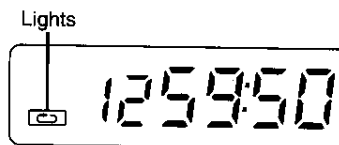
During program play (see page 13), rapid forwarding or reversing is possible only within the track now playing.

## *Playing a CD or particular track repeatedly (Repeat play)*

All the tracks or the programmed tracks are played repeatedly.



**In the play or stop mode, press REPEAT.**



### **To release repeat play:**

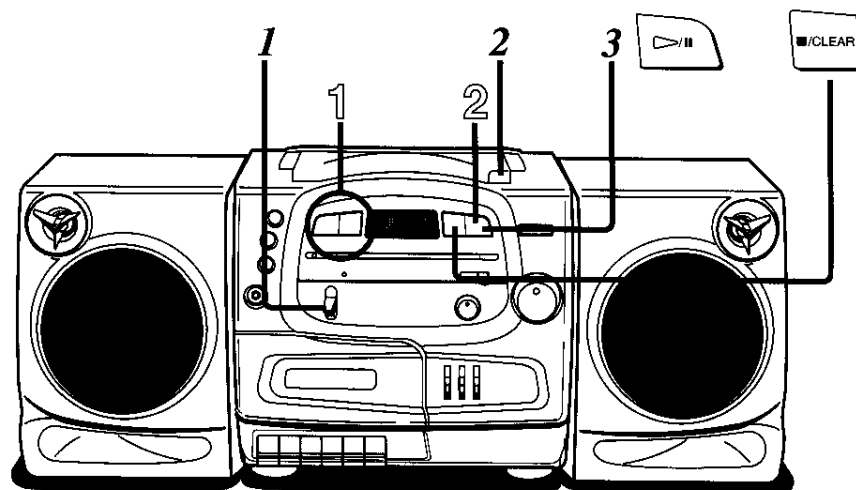


Press REPEAT.

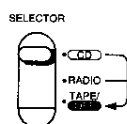
### **To listen to the same track over and over again:**

Program the track to be repeated (see page 13) and press REPEAT.

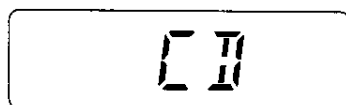
# Listening to CDs



1

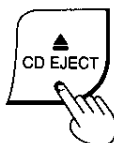


Set **SELECTOR** to "**CD**".



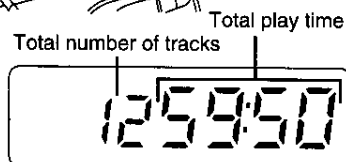
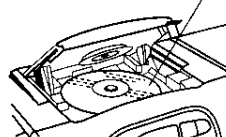
"NO DISC" appears on the display when a CD has not been inserted.

2



Press **CD EJECT**, insert the CD and close the disc lid.

Insert the CD with its label side facing up.

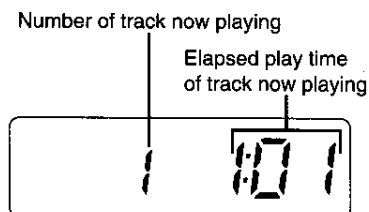


3



Press **▷/II** to start play.

Play starts from track 1 and continues to the last track, after which it automatically stops.



To stop play:



Press **■/CLEAR**.

To stop play temporarily:



Press **▷/II**.

The elapsed play time indication now flashes.

To resume play:

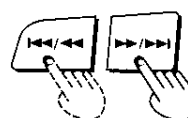
Press **▷/II**.

## Note

Interference may affect radio or TV reception when CDs are played close to a radio or TV set. If this occurs, place the unit as far away from the set as possible.

## Starting play from a specific track (Direct play)

1



In the stop mode, press **◀◀/▶▶** or **▶▶▶▶** to specify the desired track.

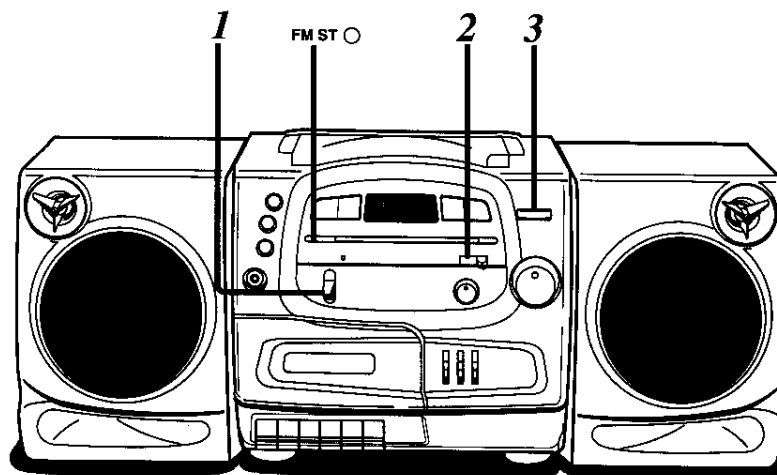
2



Press **▷/II** to start play.

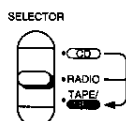
A disc can be played from a specific track to the end of the last track.

# Listening to the Radio



## Selecting a radio station

1



Set SELECTOR to "RADIO".

2



Set BAND as desired.

3



Tune in the desired station using TUNING.

- ⤴ : To heighten the frequency
- ⤵ : To lower the frequency



To receive FM stereo broadcasts:

Set BAND to FM ST.

When FM stereo broadcast is picked up, FM ST indicator will light.

## When an FM stereo broadcast is accompanied by too much noise

Switch the sound to monaural to reduce noise.



Set BAND to "FM".

FM ST indicator now goes off.

## Adjusting the antenna

### For FM reception:

Adjust the length and direction of the telescopic antenna.

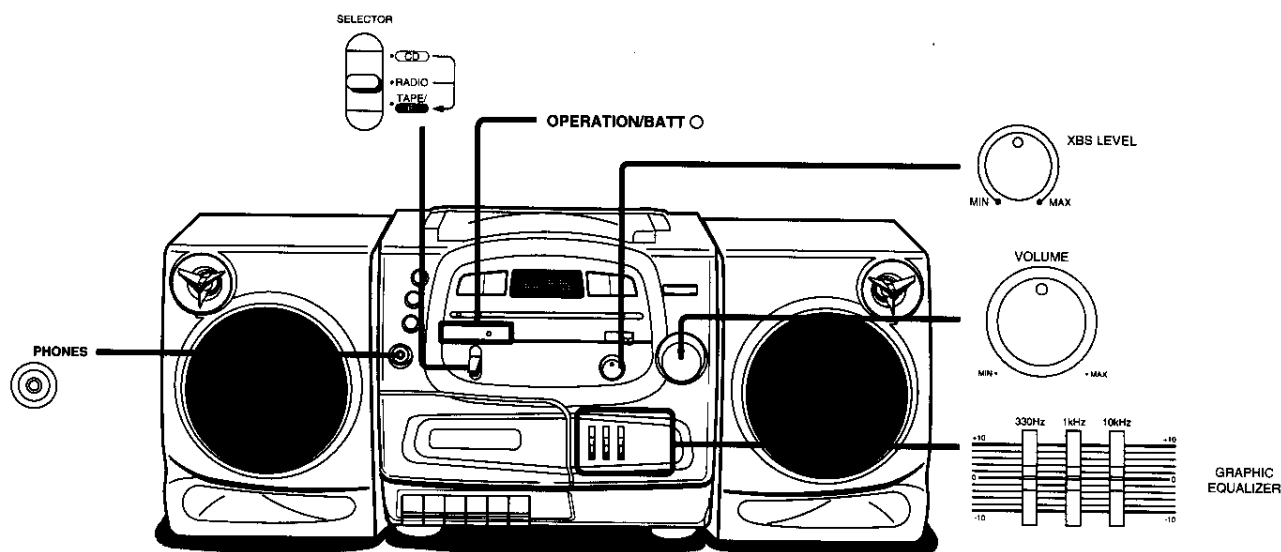
### For AM reception:

Adjust the direction in which the unit is pointed.

### For your reference:

Radio broadcasts may be hard to receive in a building or moving vehicle because their signals are weak. Whenever possible, use the unit nearby a window.

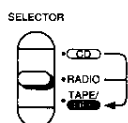
# Common Operations



## Turning the unit on and off

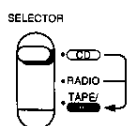
The OPERATION/BATT indicator lights when the unit is turned on.

### To listen to the radio

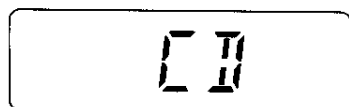


Set **SELECTOR** to "RADIO".

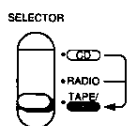
### To listen to CDs



Set **SELECTOR** to "CD".



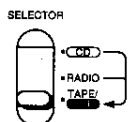
### To listen to tapes



Set **SELECTOR** to "TAPE/**OFF**".

The power is supplied and the OPERATION/BATT indicator lights only while the tape is travelling.

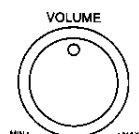
### Turning the unit off:



Set **SELECTOR** to "TAPE/**OFF**".

Press STOP/EJECT if a tape is travelling. The OPERATION/BATT indicator goes off.

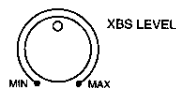
## Adjusting the volume



Turn **VOLUME** to adjust the volume to the desired level.

Turn it clockwise to turn up the volume. Turn it counter-clockwise to turn down the volume.

## Adjusting the deep bass (XBS)



Turn **XBS LEVEL** to adjust the deep bass to the desired level.

Turn it clockwise to increase the deep bass.

Turn it counter-clockwise to reduce the deep bass.

## Adjusting the graphic equalizer controls



Adjust the graphic equalizer controls to desired settings.

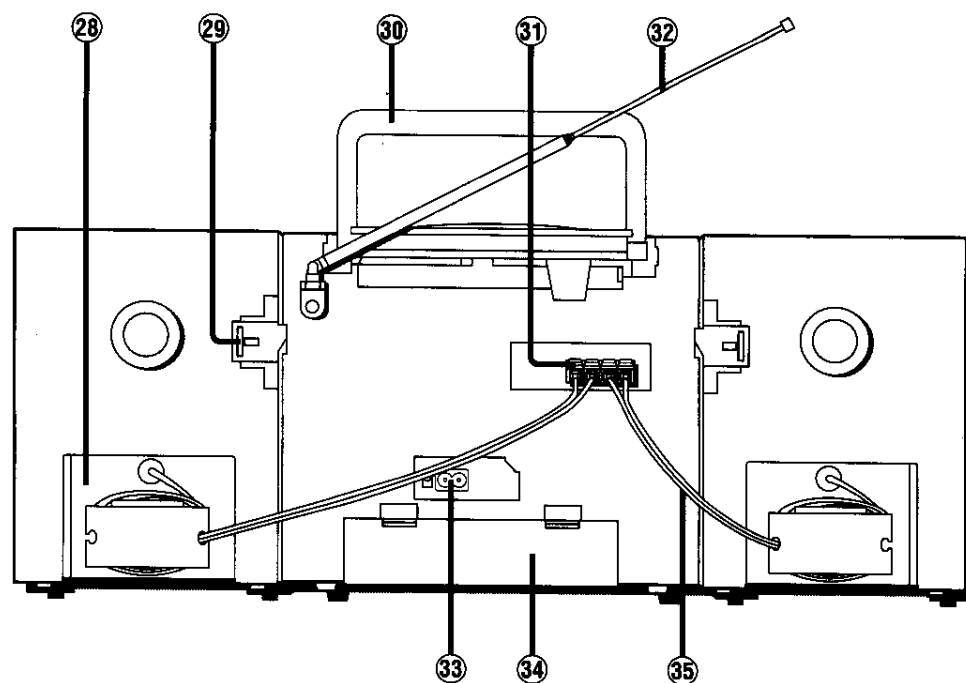
## Listening through headphones (not included)



Turn down the volume and connect the headphones to the **PHONES** jack.

Plug type: Stereo mini

Avoid listening for prolonged periods of time to prevent hearing damage.



## Rear panel section

No.	Name	Ref. page
28	Speaker cable compartments	5
29	Speaker release levers	5
30	Handle	
31	Speaker terminals (SPEAKER)	5
32	Telescopic antenna	10

No.	Name	Ref. page
33	AC socket (AC IN~)	4
34	Battery compartment cover	4
35	Speaker cables	5

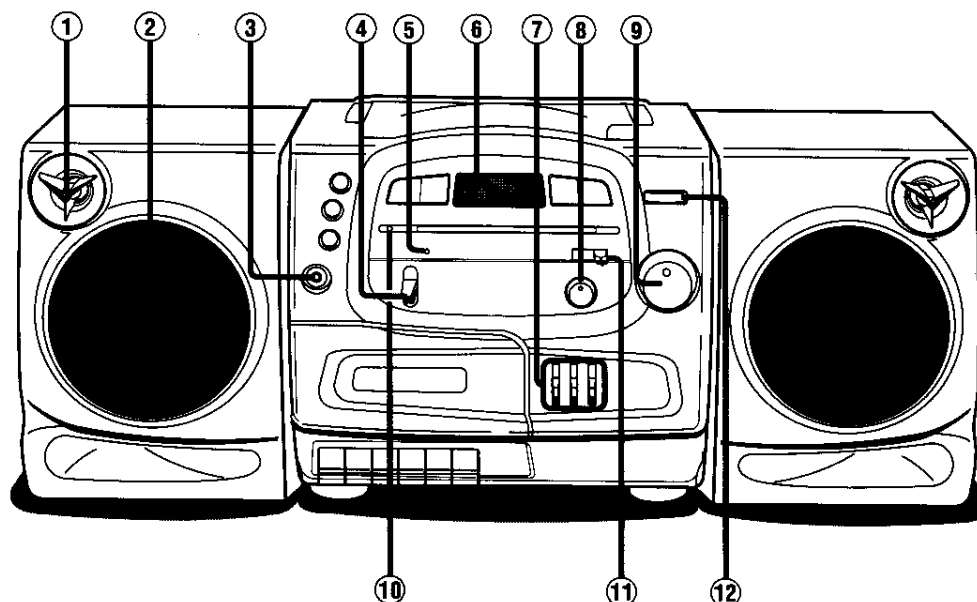




### Cassette deck controls

7

# Location of Controls



## Basic controls

No.	Name	Ref. page
①	Speakers (Tweeter)	5
②	Speakers (Woofer)	5
③	Headphones jack (PHONES)	9
④	Function selector (SELECTOR)	9
⑤	Operation/battery check indicator (OPERATION/BATT)	4
⑥	Display section	
⑦	Graphic equalizer controls (GRAPHIC EQUALIZER)	9
⑧	Extra bass system control (XBS LEVEL)	9
⑨	Volume control (VOLUME)	9

## Tuner controls

No.	Name	Ref. page
⑩	FM stereo indicator (FM ST)	10
⑪	Band selector (BAND)	10
⑫	Tuning control (TUNING)	10

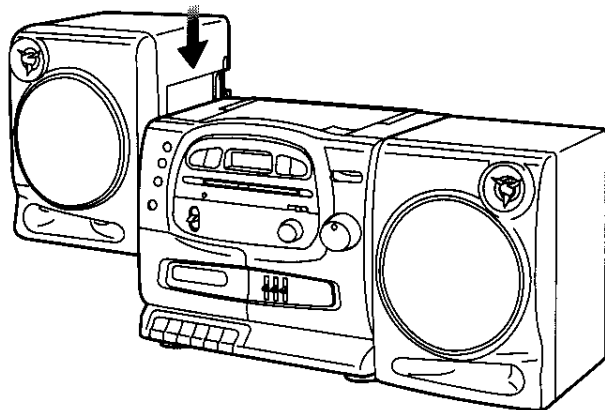
## Speaker system connection

This unit can be used as a one-piece portable stereo radio cassette recorder, or a three-piece component system, by attaching or detaching the speaker system.

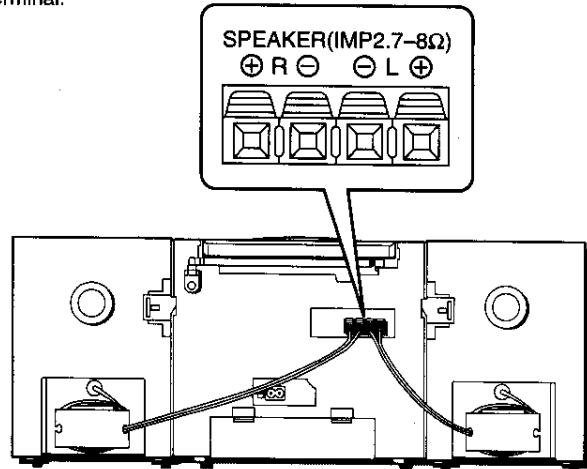
Before attaching or detaching the speakers, be sure to disconnect the speaker cables from the speaker terminals. Be sure to set SELECTOR to TAPE/ **OFF** to turn off the unit before connecting or disconnecting the speaker cables.

### Attaching the speakers

Align the speaker with the main unit as shown in the figure, interlock the grooves and press down.



Connect the speaker cable (black) to the  $\ominus$  (negative) speaker terminal, and the other speaker cable (red) to the  $\oplus$  (positive) speaker terminal.



When using the unit with the speakers attached, wind the speaker cables as shown.

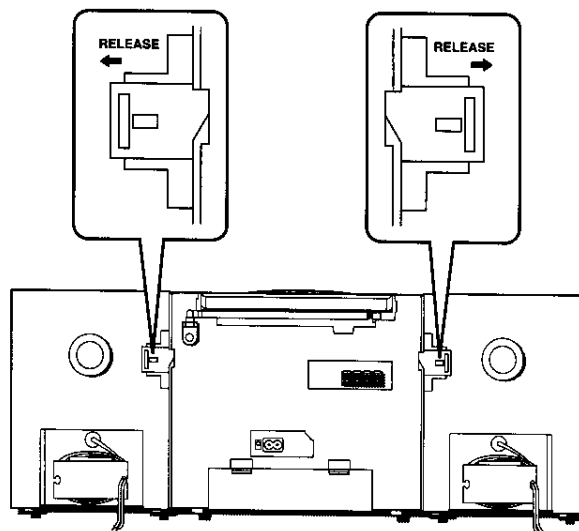
#### Note

Since a strong magnet is used for the speaker, keep magnetized commuter passes, tickets or personal credit cards, recorded tapes, watches, etc. away from the unit. The speaker magnet in the unit may damage them.

### Detaching the speakers

Unlock the speaker release levers by pulling them in the direction shown below, and slide each speaker up.

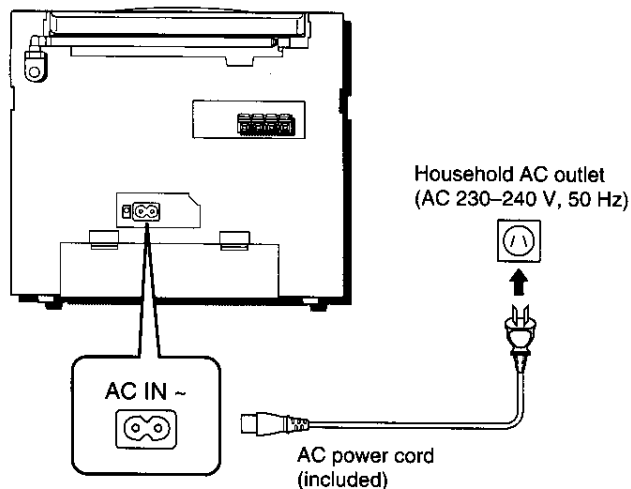
Connect the speaker cables to the speaker terminals.



# Power Sources

## To operate on AC power

Connect the included AC power cord to the AC socket of the unit and your household AC outlet.

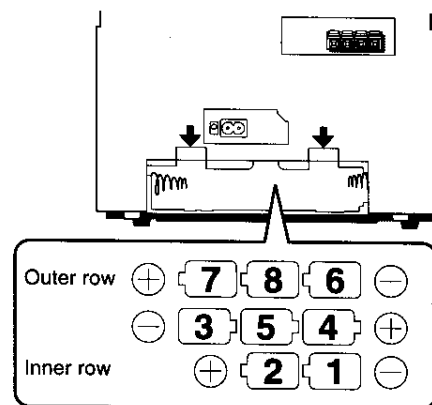


## To operate on battery power

### Battery installation

Unplug the AC power cord from the household AC outlet and the AC socket of the unit.

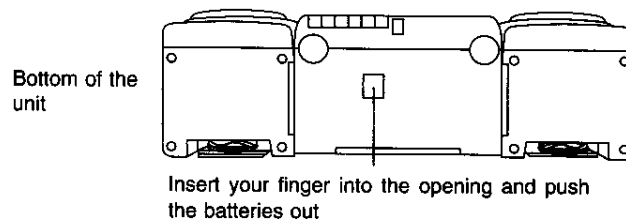
Insert eight UM-1 (R20/LR20, not included) batteries into the battery compartment, making sure that the batteries are installed in the designated numerical order and that the proper polarities are maintained.



- Batteries installed with incorrect polarities may leak and damage this unit.
- Do not mix batteries (old and new) or types (manganese and alkaline, etc.).
- If the unit is not used for a long period of time or is used only from an AC power source, remove the batteries to prevent potential damage from possible battery leakage.

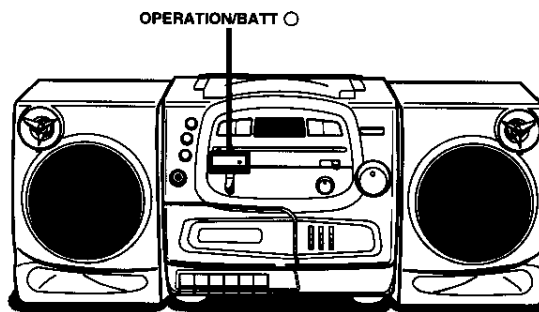
### Battery removal

Remove as shown in the figure below.



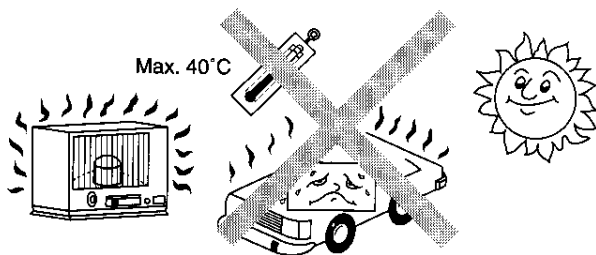
### Battery life

When the OPERATION/BATT indicator goes off (or dims) during play, replace all the batteries with new ones.

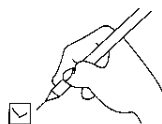


## Precautions

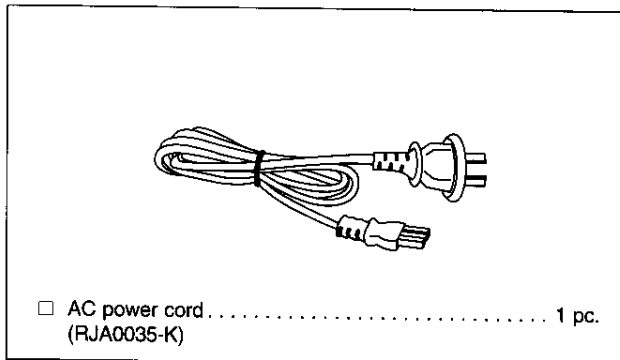
- If the set is not used for a long period of time or is used only from an AC power source, remove all the batteries to prevent potential damage due to possible battery leakage.
- Avoid using or placing this unit near sources of heat. Do not leave it in an automobile exposed to direct sunlight for a long time with the doors and windows closed as this may deform the cabinet.
- Avoid cuts, scratches, or poor connections in the AC power cord, as they may result in possible fire or electric shock hazard. Also, excessive bending, pulling or splicing of the cord should be avoided.
- Do not unplug the AC power cord by pulling on the cord. To do so may cause premature failure or shock hazard.
- Do not operate the set on AC power in a bathroom, as a potential shock hazard may result.
- When not in use, disconnect the AC power cord from the household AC outlet.
- The function selector switch does not separate entire unit from mains even if in "TAPE/ **OFF**" position.



## Supplied Accessory



Please check and identify the supplied accessory.





# Maintenance

## Maintenance of external surfaces

To clean this unit, use a soft, dry cloth.

If the surfaces are extremely dirty, use a soft cloth dipped in a soap-and-water solution or a weak detergent solution.

Wring the cloth well before wiping the unit.

Wipe once again with a soft, dry cloth.

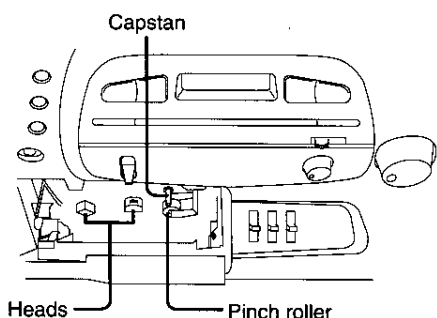
Never use alcohol, paint thinner, benzine, or chemically treated cloths to clean this unit. Such chemicals may damage the finish of your unit.

## Tape head care

To assure sound quality for recording and playback, be sure to clean the tape heads after approximately every 10 hours of use.

1. Open the cassette deck holder by pressing STOP/EJECT.
2. Clean the tape heads, pinch roller and the capstan shaft with a cotton swab (or a soft, lint-free cloth) slightly moistened with isopropyl alcohol.

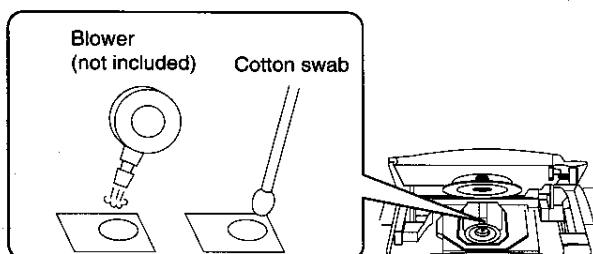
Do not use any solution other than alcohol for head cleaning.



It is recommended that the head assembly be demagnetized if distortion or poor sound quality persists after cleaning the heads. Demagnetize them using a demagnetizer available from an audio store.

## Lens care

Open the disc lid and clean the lens with a blower (not included). If the lens is extremely dirty, clean it with a cotton swab.



# Technical Specifications

## Radio

### Frequency range

FM

88-108 MHz

AM

525-1705 kHz

## CD player

### Sampling frequency

44.1 kHz

### Decoding

16 bit linear

### Beam source

Semiconductor laser (wavelength 780 nm)

### No. of channels

2 channel, stereo

### Frequency response

20 Hz-20 kHz (+0, -2 dB)

### S/N ratio

95 dB

### Dynamic range

86 dB

### Wow and Flutter

Less than possible measurement data

### D/A converter

MASH (1 bit DAC)

## Tape recorder

### Track system

4 track, 2 channel, stereo

### Recording system

AC bias

### Erasing system

Magnet

### Monitor system

Variable sound monitor

### Frequency range

Normal

30-14,000 Hz

## General

### Power requirement

AC

230-240 V, 50 Hz

### Battery

Power consumption: 42 W

### Speakers

12 V (8 UM-1 (R20/LR20) batteries)

2 Woofer; 12 cm

2 Tweeter; 1.5 cm

### Jacks

Output

Speaker; 2.7-8  $\Omega$

Headphones; 32  $\Omega$

### Dimensions (WxHxD)

611 x 247 x 237 mm

Main unit; 279 x 247 x 237 mm

Speaker box; 170 x 240 x 200 mm

5.90 kg without batteries

### Weight

### Note:

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

Weight and dimensions are approximate.

MASH is a trademark of NTT.

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**RQT2852-L**  
P0894L0